

# SOLID WASTE NEWS

August 2013

## **Wood Waste Recycling Is Now More Convenient**

A new, more convenient program is now available for customers who wish to dispose of chippable wood debris at the Central Transfer Station (CTS) in Centralia.

A yard waste collection program has been offered for several years in the Recycling Area of the CTS, but customers have had to lift their material into 40-yard collection containers. The new wood debris site now offers an easier unloading option. Customers with this material are directed to a new area behind the Recycling Area at the CTS, 1411 S. Tower Ave., Centralia, where they are able to push the debris out of the back of their trucks or use a dump trailer to unload chippable material.

Chippable wood debris will accumulate until enough material has been collected to bring in a tub grinder to chip it. Materials accepted for chipping are limbs, trees, stumps, pallets, and non-treated dimensional lumber. While nails are okay, customers are asked to unload pallets and dimensional lumber in a separate pile in the new



New wood debris site at Central Transfer Station in Centralia

area. The new program gives customers more convenience for some organic materials, but not all.

Grass clippings and leaves are not accepted in the new area, but are still being collected in a box in the Recycling Area. We continue to haul grass clippings and leaves to a composting facility in Tenino. Although it is not required to bag grass clippings and leaves, compostable bags for this material makes it more convenient for putting it in the collection box. The composting facility that takes our organic materials accepts the following compostable bags: Bio Bags, Glad Compostable tall kitchen bags and brown paper bags. Sun Birds Shopping Center in Chehalis sells Bio Bags; WalMart in Chehalis sells Glad Compostable tall kitchen bags; and Home Depot in Chehalis carries large brown paper bags. **Please note: Regular plastic garbage bags are not accepted in the yard waste container.**

Both types of organic materials will continue to be charged \$60 per ton with a \$5 minimum for 160 pounds or less. Customers who don't want to separate their two types of yard debris may dispose of their material as regular garbage at the \$82 per ton rate with a \$10 minimum for 220 pounds or less.

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# Commingled Recycling Is a Success

*Plastic tubs & buckets and cardboard milk & juice containers now accepted in commingled containers.*

Commingled recycling – or the collecting of paper, plastics, and metals in one container for recycling – became available for Lewis County residents in 2008. This convenient way to reduce waste diverts about 3,200 tons of recyclable materials from the landfill. The mixture of recyclables is taken from the transfer stations to a materials recovery facility where it is separated, shipped to recyclers, and made into new products.

Not only is a curbside commingled recycling program offered by LeMay Enterprises for most Lewis County residents, Lewis County Solid Waste also offers a commingled recycle bin at the Central Transfer Station in Centralia and the East Lewis County Transfer Station in Morton that accepts free of charge the same materials as the curbside commingled program. Separate bins are also available at the transfer stations for free collection of glass bottles and jars (separated by color), cardboard, and scrap metal.

A few more items have been added to the list of items accepted in the curbside commingled containers and the commingled containers at the transfer stations. Plastic tubs, buckets, and cardboard milk and juice cartons may now be included with other commingled recyclable materials.

The following items may be placed in commingled recycle containers for curbside pick-up, as well as the commingled recycle bins at the transfer stations:

- Plastic containers: plastic bottles, milk jugs, plastic tubs, plastic jars and buckets. Preparation: Empty containers, quick rinse, no lids. **Recycle plastics by shape and ignore numbers.**
- Paper and cardboard: milk and juice cartons, paper or frozen food boxes, cardboard, paper bags, newspaper, phone books, mail, magazines, mixed

paper and catalogs. Preparation: clean, dry, and quick rinse for milk and juice cartons.

- Aluminum and tin cans. Preparation: empty, quick rinse, no loose lids, and do not crush.

Glass bottles and jars must be kept out of the curbside recycling containers and the commingled recycle bin at the transfer stations. However, collection boxes are available for free drop-off of glass sorted by color, at the transfer stations in Centralia and Morton, and at the following community drop-off locations:

- Forest Grange in Chehalis
- Mossyrock City Hall
- Pe Ell Sewer Treatment Plant
- Packwood Senior Center

**Glass, plastic bags or wrap, and dangerous materials cannot be placed in commingled recycle bins.**

The best option for disposal of shredded paper is to mix it with your backyard home composting or worm composting bin. Most shredded paper does not get recycled because it is difficult to sort out of the commingled recycling system.

**For more information or questions, please go to [lewiscountywa.gov/recycle](http://lewiscountywa.gov/recycle) or call 360-740-1452 or 800-749-5980.**

